

An quick intro to note taking using Markdown and Obsidian

A quick intro to note taking using Markdown

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Why bother taking notes?

- We as human only have a short memory
- Notes help us remember important things

| A second brain, for you, forever.



What is Markdown?

| A lightweight markup language for creating formatted text using a plain-text editor.

Why use [Markdown](#)?

- Easy to read
 - Easy to write
 - Free and non-proprietary
-

[Markdown](#) syntax -- header

```
# Header 1
## Header 2
### Header 3
```

Header 1

Header 2

Header 3

--

[Markdown](#) syntax -- font

```
*Italic1* _Italic2_  
**Bold1** __Bold2__  
~~Strikethrough~~  
==Highlight==
```

Italic1 Italic2

Bold1 Bold2

~~Strikethrough~~

Highlight

--

Markdown syntax -- list

unordered list

- item 1
- item 2
- item 3

ordered list

1. item 1
2. item 2
3. item 3

unordered list

- item 1
- item 2
- item 3

ordered list

1. item 1
2. item 2
3. item 3

--

Markdown syntax -- link

```
[USU] (https://www.usu.edu/)
```

[USU](https://www.usu.edu/)

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Markdown syntax -- check box

```
check box
- [ ] to do
- [x] done
```

check box

- to do
- done

--

Markdown syntax -- math

- Accept LaTeX and MathJax format

– inline math use single \$:

Darcy's Law: $q = -K \frac{dh}{dx}$

– math block use double \$:

\$\$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varphi s \eta) + \nabla \cdot (\eta \mathbf{q}) = Q_w$$

\$\$

- Darcy's Law: $q = -K \frac{dh}{dx}$
- Math block using LaTeX

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\varphi s \eta) + \nabla \cdot (\eta \mathbf{q}) = Q_w$$

--

Markdown syntax -- code

– inline code: ``import numpy; print("abs(-5)=numpy.abs(-5)")``

– code block:

```
```python
import numpy
print("abs(-5)=numpy.abs(-5)")
```
```

- inline code: `import numpy; print("abs(-5)=numpy.abs(-5)")`
- code block

```
import numpy
print("abs(-5)=numpy.abs(-5)")
```

--

Markdown syntax -- table

```
| Col 1 | Col 2 | Col 3 |  
| -----: | :-----: | :----- |  
| x | 1 | 3 |  
| y | 2 | 4 |
```

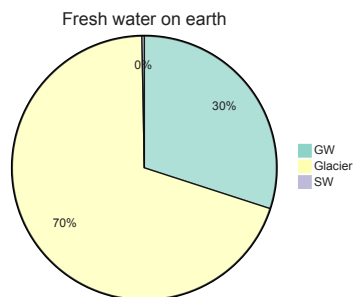
| Col 1 | Col 2 | Col 3 |
|-------|-------|-------|
| x | 1 | 3 |
| y | 2 | 4 |

--

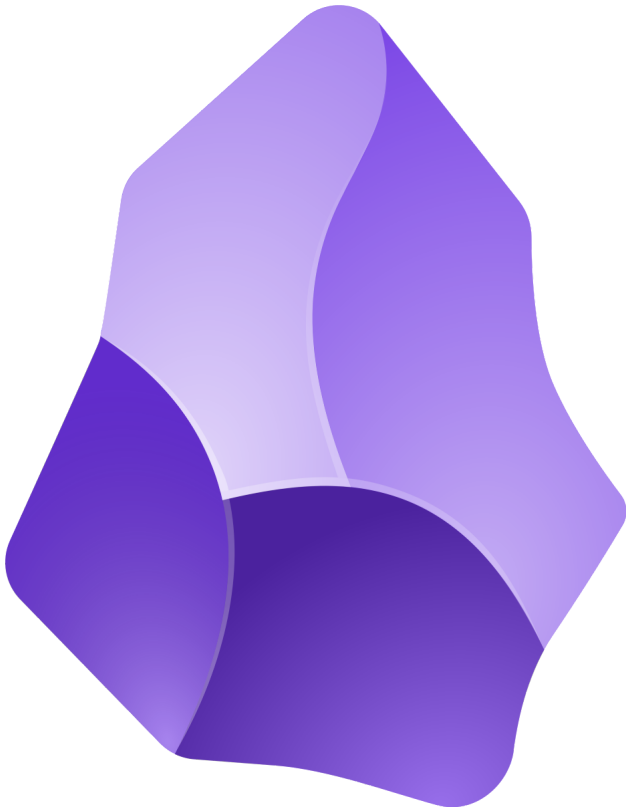
Markdown extra -- chart

- Some app support [Mermaid](#) diagrams and charts
- In the code block, use `mermaid` as the language

```
pie title Fresh water on earth  
  "GW" : 30  
  "Glacier" : 69.7  
  "SW" : 0.3
```



Introducing Obsidian

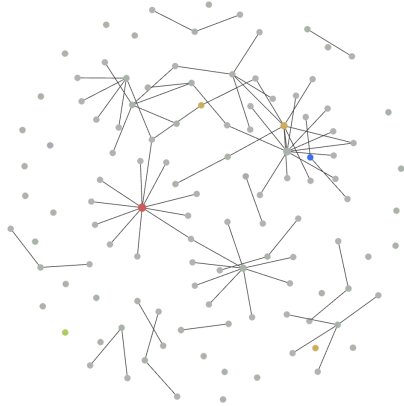


Why Obsidian?

- Support Markdown plus additional syntax (e.g., [Mermaid](#), [callouts](#), [internal links](#))
- Create a mind map that functions like your brain
- A rich collection of community plugins (e.g., Zotero Integration)
- Free

Example of mind map

Ideas are connected through nodes and links. Each dot represents a note.



References

1. [Markdown-Based Scientific and Computational Note Taking with Obsidian – Water Programming: A Collaborative Research Blog](#)
2. [Basic formatting syntax - Obsidian Help](#)
3. [About Mermaid | Mermaid](#)

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1. Utah State University ↩